REMARKS

In the May 31, 2002 office action, claims 1, 2, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 4, 509,886 to Lindsay and claims 3-7, 10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindsay.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and new claims 15-34 are pending.

The Lindsay Reference (USP 4,509,.886)

The Lindsay reference discloses a cutting tool with cutting inserts having positioning keyways. As described at col. 2, lines 58-63:

> "The insert 32 is provided with a centrally disposed keyway 38 which extends fully across the face of the insert. When the insert 32 is placed in the slot, the pin 26 engages the keyway 38 to locate the insert 32 longitudinally relative to the tool holder 12 and prevent longitudinal movement with respect thereto. (emphasis added).

Therefore, to the extent that Lindsay's "keyway 38" is an "axial positioning member", it is specifically designed to prevent longitudinal movement of the cutting insert relative to the tool holder 12, and therefore precludes insertion of the cutting insert 32 into the tool holder 12 in a longitudinal direction. It is further noted that in Lindsay's tool, the clamp 44 must be fully removed in order to "flip" or completely replace the insert. This is because Lindsay's insert must be lifted vertically to clear the lip 24 formed on Lindsay's holder 12.

In contrast to Lindsay, all embodiments of the present invention permit sliding insertion of a cutting insert into the cutting insert holder, along a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert, specifically, from the front end of the insert holder. Insertion (and removal) in the present invention can be achieved by loosening one or more clamping screws and inserting (or pulling out) the cutting insert along the cutting insert's longitudinal direction.

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended on page 7 to add a paragraph describing features seen in original Figs. 1 and 2. The dashed lines between the cutting insert and the insert holder clearly imply that the cutting insert can be slidingly inserted and removed from the insert holder along a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert, rather than in a direction transverse thereto. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

The specification has been amended on page 8 to add a paragraph describing features seen in original Fig. 5-6b. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 2 has been written in independent form. Claim 9 has been amended to include many of the limitations of original Claim 8 and has further been amended to recite that the protrusion and the recess are "shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along the longitudinal direction of the cutting insert." The dependency of several claims has been changed to Claim 2 or Claim 9.

Claim 10 has been amended to delete the language that the recess has a "square shaped cross section."

Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to recite that the insert has "180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion." Support for this language can be found at page 7, lines 19-21 of the original specification.

New dependent claims 15 & 17 recite that the protrusion is spaced apart from the cutting insert's clamping abutment surfaces. Support for this can be found in the original Figs. 2 and 3a-3c, and in the language added on page 7 of the specification.

New dependent claims 16 & 18 recite that "both the first and second side surfaces" (of the cutting insert) "are provided with a protrusion." Support for this can be found in the original Figs. 10a & 10b and at page 9, lines 20-25.

New independent claims 19 & 23 recite that the cutting insert has (1) "a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions" and (2) "an axial location member formed as an axially directed recess open in said

longitudinal direction." Claim 23 further recites that the recess and the protrusion (formed on the inner side surface of the insert holder) are "shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction." Support for this can be found in the original Figs. 5 and 6a-6b, and in the language added on page 8 of the specification. It is noted that the cutting insert of Lindsay does not disclose "an axial location member formed as an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction"; the keyway 38 in Lindsay's insert is open in a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the cutting insert.

New dependent claims 20 and 24 recite that the "axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces." Support for this feature can be found in Figs. 6a-6b and 11a-11b and the language added to page 8 of the specification. It is noted that the keyway 38 in Lindsay's cutting insert 44 extends to the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces (to permit vertical insertion into, and removal from, the holder 12), and so is not, and cannot be, spaced apart therefrom.

New dependent claims 21 and 25 recite that "both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess." Support for this feature can be found in Figs. 11a-11b and in the specification at page 9, lines 25-28. The insert in Lindsay does not disclose recesses on both sides, nor would there be any reason to modify Lindsay's insert to have this feature.

New dependent claims 22 and 26 recite that "at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions." Support for this feature can be found in Figs. 6a-6b, and the specification at page 8, lines 7-8. The insert in Lindsay does not disclose two recesses on the same side surface, nor would there be any reason to modify Lindsay's insert to have this feature.

New independent claims 27 and 31 recite that the cutting insert has a "central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions", and that the central body portion is provided with "sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance." Support for this can be found in Figs. 7-9 and the corresponding text. Claim 31 recites that, inter alia,"the axial location member and the positioning member are shaped so as to permit sliding

insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction." With regard to both claims 27 and 31, it is noted that Lindsay does not make any mention of sloped clamping abutment surfaces. With specific regard to claim 31, it is noted that Lindsay does not disclose shaping the axial location member and the positioning member so as to permit sliding insertion of the cutting insert along the longitudinal direction of the cutting insert.

Dependent claims 28-30 and 32-34, which recite features found in original claims 5-7 and 12-14, respectively, are supported in Figs. 7-9 and the corresponding text.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b)

Original Claim 2 was rejected in the May 31, 2002 office action as being anticipated by Lindsay. This rejection is traversed. Original dependent Claim 2 (now independent claim 2) recited that the axial locating member is a "protrusion". In contrast, as discussed above, Lindsay discloses an insert 32 having a "keyway 38". For this reason alone, it is submitted that Lindsay does not anticipate original claim 2.

In anticipation of a putative 35 USC 103 rejection, attorney for applicant submits that there is no motivation to modify Lindsay to replace the "keyway 38" with a protrusion. Lindsay makes no mention of such an arrangement and, in any event, the pin 26 would interfere with any such protrusion (and so Lindsay teaches away from an insert with a protrusion).

Rejection under 35 USC 103(b)

Original claim 9 was rejected as being unpatentable over Lindsay. In formulating the rejection of this, and other, claims, the Examiner argued that "The reference shows all of the elements of the claims but for the specific shape and configuration of the axial location member, and for the claimed shapes of the clamping abutment surfaces. On the other hand, it would have been obvious to provide the device of Lindsay with these features for the purpose of more securely clamping the insert and depending on the specific application." The Examiner's rejection is traversed because there is no teaching of these features, let alone any motivation articulated by the Examiner to modify either Lindsay's insert or Lindsay's insert

holder.

Notwithstanding the lack of motivation to modify, it is noted that independent claim 9 now recites that the protrusion and the recess are shaped "so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert, along a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert." It is submitted that Lindsay teaches away from such an arrangement, in view of the fact that Lindsay's insert is specifically designed to "prevent longitudinal movement with respect" to the tool holder (emphasis added), and therefore is inserted along a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the cutting insert.

For the foregoing reasons, claim 9, and all claims depending thereon, are believed to define over the Lindsay reference.

Claims 4 and 11

These claims specifically recite that the insert has "180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion." Lindsay clearly does not have such symmetry even assuming, arguendo, that any portion of Lindsay's insert can be considered a "protrusion". Therefore, these claims are believed to define over Lindsay for reasons independent of their dependency on their respective base claims.

With respect to original claims 3-7, 9, 10 and 12-14, the Examiner conceded that Lindsay does not show "the specific shape and configuration of the axial location member, and for the claimed shapes of the clamping abutment surfaces", but nonetheless argued that these would be obvious. This does not form a prima facie case of obviousness. It is therefore submitted that these claims are patentable, not only by virtue of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein. Should the Examiner maintain the rejection of these claims, or any of the newly submitted claims reciting features present in any of these claims, the Examiner is kindly requested to identify the corresponding features in a reference, and provided the basis for any motivation to modify the primary reference.

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 2-7 and 9-34 are believed to be in allowable form and define over the prior art. An early notice of allowance is requested so that the application can proceed to issue.

A separate Amendment Fee Transmittal Sheet is being submitted.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Appendix A
Changes to Specification in Amendment filed July 30, 2002

At page 7, after line 12, please add the following paragraph:

--As seen in Figs. 1 and 2, the recess 44 and the protrusion 62 are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert 24 along a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert. As best seen in Fig. 2, the protrusion 62 is surrounded on all sides by the first side surface 58 and so is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces 54, 56. Furthermore, the recess 44 preferably opens to the front end of the cutting insert holder.--

At page 8, after line 16, please add the following paragraph:

--As best seen in Figs. 6a-6b, recess 70 is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces 54, 56. Moreover, recess 70 is open in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert defined between the cutting ends. Accordingly, the recess 70 and the protrusion 68 formed on the insert holder inner side surface 40 are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.--

Appendix B
Clean Copy of Amended Specification Paragraphs in Amendment filed July 30, 2002

At page 7, after line 12, please add the following paragraph:

--As seen in Figs. 1 and 2, the recess 44 and the protrusion 62 are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert 24 along a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert. As best seen in Fig. 2, the protrusion 62 is surrounded on all sides by the first side surface 58 and so is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces 54, 56. Furthermore, the recess 44 preferably opens to the front end of the cutting insert holder.--

At page 8, after line 16, please add the following paragraph:

--As best seen in Figs. 6a-6b, recess 70 is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces 54, 56. Moreover, recess 70 is open in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert defined between the cutting ends. Accordingly, the recess 70 and the protrusion 68 formed on the insert holder inner side surface 40 are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.--

Appendix C
Changes to Claims in Amendment filed July 30, 2002

2. (Amended) [A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 1,] A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, wherein the axial location member is a protrusion.

4. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, having a 180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion. [wherein the axial location member is a recess.]

5. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim [1] 2, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces are sloped, defining therebetween a variable distance so that when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

6. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim [1] 2, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

7. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim [1] 2, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

9. (Amended) [A cutting tool assembly in accordance with claim 8] A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member;

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member is a protrusion and the positioning member is a rear surface of a recess in the insert holder inner side surface, the protrusion and the recess being shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert.

10. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the protrusion is square-shaped. [and the recess has a generally matching square shaped cross section.]

11. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the cutting insert has a 180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion. [axial location member is a recess and the positioning member is a protrusion on the insert holder side surface.]

12. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim [8] 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces are sloped, defining therebetween a variable distance, so that when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower base jaw, respectively, are matchingly sloped.

13. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim [8] 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower clamping jaw, respectively, have the form of matching V-shaped grooves.

14. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim [8] 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower clamping jaw, respectively, have the form of matching V-shaped protrusions.

15. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the protrusion is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

16. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein both the first and second side surfaces of the cutting insert are provided with a protrusion.

17. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the protrusion is

spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

18. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with a protrusion.

19. (New) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member formed as an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction.

20. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

21. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess.

22. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein said at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions.

23. (New) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member;

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member is an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction and the positioning member is a protrusion on the insert holder inner side surface, the axially directed recess and the protrusion being shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.

24. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

25. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 22, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess.

26. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 22, wherein said at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions.

27. (New) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance, the sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces having first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, wherein the axial location member is shaped so as to permit insertion of the cutting insert along said longitudinal direction.

28. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein, when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view, the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

29. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

30. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

31. (New) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided

with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance, the sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces having first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member,

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member and the positioning member are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.

32. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein, when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view, the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

33. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

34. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

Appendix D
Pending Claims after Amendment filed July 30, 2002

2. (Amended) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, wherein the axial location member is a protrusion.

3. (Original) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the protrusion is square shaped.

4. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, having a 180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion.

5. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces are sloped, defining therebetween a variable distance so that when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

6. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

7. (Amended) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

9. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member;

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member is a protrusion and the positioning member is a rear surface of a recess in the insert holder inner side surface, the protrusion and the recess being shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along the longitudinal direction of the cutting insert.

10. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the protrusion is square-shaped.

11. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the cutting insert has a 180° rotational symmetry about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal plane (P) of the cutting insert and passing through the center of the protrusion.

12. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces are sloped, defining therebetween a variable distance, so that when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower base jaw, respectively, are matchingly sloped.

13. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower clamping jaw, respectively, have the form of matching V-shaped grooves.

14. (Amended) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves and the upper and lower clamping surfaces of the upper clamping jaw and the lower clamping jaw, respectively, have the form of matching V-shaped protrusions.

15. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein the protrusion is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

16. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 9, wherein both the first and second side surfaces of the cutting insert are provided with a protrusion.

17. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the protrusion is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

18. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 2, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with a protrusion.

19. (New) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member formed as an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction.

20. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein the axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

21. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess.

22. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 19, wherein said at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions.

23. (New) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the

insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces with first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member;

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member is an axially directed recess open in said longitudinal direction and the positioning member is a protrusion on the insert holder inner side surface, the axially directed recess and the protrusion being shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.

24. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the axially directed recess is spaced apart from the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces.

25. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 22, wherein both the first and second side surfaces are provided with an axially directed recess.

26. (New) A cutting tool assembly in accordance with Claim 22, wherein said at least one of the first and second side surfaces is provided with two axially directed recesses facing in opposite directions.

27. (New) A cutting insert comprising a central body portion extending in a

longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance, the sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces having first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member, wherein the axial location member is shaped so as to permit insertion of the cutting insert along said longitudinal direction.

28. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein, when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view, the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

29. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

30. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 27, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.

31. (New) A cutting tool assembly comprising:

a cutting insert holder; and

a cutting insert;

the cutting insert holder comprising:

an upper clamping jaw having an upper clamping surface;

a lower base jaw having a lower clamping surface;

an insert holder inner side surface extending between the upper and lower clamping surfaces; and

an insert pocket bound on two opposite sides by the upper and lower clamping surfaces and bound on a third side extending between the two opposite sides by the insert holder inner side surface; the insert holder inner side surface being provided with a positioning member;

the cutting insert comprising:

a central body portion extending in a longitudinal direction of the cutting insert between two opposite end portions, each end portion being provided with a cutting edge; the central body portion being provided with sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces which define therebetween a variable distance, the sloped upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces having first and second side surfaces extending therebetween; at least one of the first and second side surfaces being provided with an axial location member,

wherein the upper clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the upper clamping surface; the lower clamping abutment surface is configured to abut the lower clamping surface and the positioning member is configured to engage the axial location member to thereby fix the axial location of the cutting insert; and

wherein the axial location member and the positioning member are shaped so as to permit sliding insertion and removal of the cutting insert into the insert holder, along said longitudinal direction.

32. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein, when the cutting insert is viewed in an end view, the distance between the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces is a maximum at the first side surface and a minimum at the second side surface.

33. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped protrusions.

34. (New) A cutting insert in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the upper and lower clamping abutment surfaces have the form of V-shaped grooves.